

with his Interior Department positions, Morris was very deeply involved in passage of the ANCSA at the time. He was a prominent leader in the Native, corporate, and political worlds. He was known for a good sense of humor, wit, and wisdom, but was also a very savvy businessman who led Doyon, which was an Alaska Native regional corporation, to great success. His lifelong commitment to the people and progress of Alaska truly lives on in his legacy.

I am proud of all these people. I value their idealism, their energy, dedication, and unique perspectives they brought to the table in working toward the initial crafting of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

I thank Senator BEGICH for standing with me to submit this important resolution that acknowledges the hard work of the Alaska Native people in the success of their Alaska Native corporations on this 40th anniversary of passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. I know Congressman YOUNG joins with us in celebrating this anniversary as well.

HONORING RAY MALA

Since, as I mentioned, we are working a little bit on Alaska Day, I wish also to take a couple of moments here to recognize yet another Alaskan leader, truly an Alaskan legend. Two days after Christmas of this year would have marked the 105th birthday of an Alaska legend, Ray Mala. Despite insurmountable odds, Ray Mala dared to dream and he went on to become our Nation's first Native American international film star. He would have been 105, or he will have been, 2 days after Christmas, but he was our Nation's first Native American international film star. He was born in the remote village of Candle, to an immigrant father of Russian Jewish descent. He was fluent in both English and his mother's native language of Inupiat. He was a skilled hunter. He learned the Inupiat ways from his maternal grandmother, Nancy Armstrong, and while the family lived a traditional lifestyle, Mala learned to walk in both the traditional and modern worlds. Facing poverty, Mala was a very accomplished hunter, using a bow and arrow to catch whatever food he would bring home. Wearing a hand-made fur parka, he and his grandmother would traverse through harsh arctic storms in pursuit of subsistence land animals. When they would return home, Mala would pour himself into academic studies at the local school, always striving to improve himself.

At age 16 he made his acting debut in the film "Primitive Love." Mala was initially hired as a laborer on the remote film set there in the State, but film makers discovered his natural talent behind the camera and, as I say, the rest is history. He was bitten by the acting bug. Mala set out for Hollywood. He worked his way up from sweeping the stage floors to being an assistant cameraman at Fox Studios.

Initially he was turned down for any leading roles because of his mixed

Eskimo-Jewish heritage, but Mala landed his first role in the silent film "Igloo," which was shot in Barrow, AK. The film's success earned him the title of the Eskimo Clark Gable.

In 1932, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, MGM Studios, sent a film crew from Hollywood to Nome. My mother was born in Nome in 1932. Nome was a pretty interesting community back there, still very rough around the edges, but they sent a film crew to Nome to begin shooting the film that would thrust Mala into stardom. MGM struck gold with the film "Eskimo," a film also called "Mala the Magnificent," the first full-length feature film ever shot in Alaska. Mala became Alaska's first Hollywood film star and also the first nonwhite actor cast in a leading role. Over the span of his career, Mala would appear in over 25 films, all the while winning devoted fans across generations, across cultures—they loved him. His widely acclaimed role in "Eskimo" would earn Mala his place in Hollywood history.

He was more than an actor. He also excelled in cinematography and screenwriting. Keep in mind, this is a young Eskimo boy, raised in the traditional ways back in the early 1900s. Not only is he picked up by Hollywood and is a phenomenal actor, but he also excels in cinematography and screenwriting. He worked on films with many legendary filmmakers, including Alfred Hitchcock and Cecil B. DeMille. But his blossoming career was cut short by his death at age 45 due to heart complications. Mala faced many challenging personal circumstances, such as racial discrimination, at a very early age. But that did not prevent him from achieving both personal and professional excellence. I am sure he would be very proud to see that his grandson was following in his acting footsteps.

This year, in her newly released book "Eskimo Star," author Lael Morgan chronicled the inspirational life story of Ray Mala, and the State of Alaska hosted a Ray Mala film festival celebrating Mala's films in community theaters from Juneau all the way up to Point Hope.

It is a great honor for me to reflect on the life of this inspirational Alaska Native icon, and to offer a tribute to his spirited and very triumphant journey from small-town village boy to silver screen leading man. Alaskans look forward to the day when Ray Mala's magnificent star might be posthumously added to the Hollywood Walk of Fame, a tribute to the Nation's first ever Native American film star.

It is a good way to end our Alaska day series. I appreciate the indulgence of my colleagues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). The Senator from Iowa.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it seems the President of the United States has finally acknowledged that the economy is in a terrible state and there is nothing he can do about it. So, rather than offer new ideas to grow the economy, the President has now shifted into blame mode. I recognize that the slow economic growth and high levels of unemployment are having a significant impact on the middle class. But rather than listen to political rhetoric and witness finger pointing by President Obama, the unemployed would likely prefer ideas, ideas on how to turn this economy around.

I presume President Obama aspired to lead the country because he believed he had the vision and the ability to lead to a more prosperous nation. But beyond the vision, a President also needs a plan and the leadership to put that vision into place. Where is that leadership? During the past 3 years, we witnessed President Obama's theory on economic stimulus. We saw a massive expansion of government and deficit spending. More than \$800 billion was spent on a failed economic stimulus bill that was supposed to keep unemployment below 8 percent. But it did not. Government spending in the process has reached an unprecedented level. Today, the size of government, if you combine local, State, and Federal, is 40 percent of our gross national product. One hundred years ago when Teddy Roosevelt delivered his speech in Kansas, it was 8 percent. I refer to Teddy Roosevelt and the speech in Kansas because the President of the United States now tried to duplicate that speech 100 years later.

Today, government consumes 40 percent of the entire economy. According to economic policies of President Obama, government needs to grow even bigger to help our economy, and in the process there is a goal to use government to redistribute wealth. If government gets a little bit bigger, the argument goes, and if it gets a little more involved, and particularly if it gets involved in every facet of our economy and our lives, that will surely increase economic prosperity of all Americans. Right?

Of course not. All of this has led to taxes and deficit spending that crowd out private investment that could grow the economy and, in the process, create jobs. Government doesn't create self-sustaining jobs; government only creates government jobs. The private sector creates jobs. It is the responsibility of the government to create an environment that leads to job growth. It does this by instituting the rule of law, property rights, the patent system, among others—and there are a lot of others I ought to add to it. Government sets the tone.

Remember, government consumes well, it does not create well. Through economic freedom, entrepreneurs are free to innovate and prosper. This economic success leads to higher standards of living and a better quality of

life. Importantly, these gains do not come then at the expense of others. Contrary to what some would have you believe, business growth does not have to come at the cost of others. In other words, it is not a zero sum game. In fact, business success and economic growth lifts all boats through employment gains, higher wages, and value to consumers, among a lot of other things that could be mentioned.

There are some who believe that individual success cannot be achieved without government involvement or intervention. What is more, they believe an individual's success must mean that someone else has been deprived or they believe if someone else is successful, the success was achieved collectively only with the help of government or others in society. This line of thinking concludes that government and society is, therefore, entitled to some of those achievements.

President Obama's recent speech in Kansas provides great insight into his economic theory. He clearly believes government should be involved at every level of individual and business activity. The President says that hard-working Americans should be rewarded for their achievements. However, his economic vision demonstrates his belief that individual success is due to society, not because of hard work or individual effort. This line of thinking is in stark contradiction to our country's founding principles that government exists to allow for the individual to achieve success and the pursuit of happiness.

The idea of government intervention runs contrary to our founding principles of individual and economic freedom. Government exists to serve the needs of people rather than people serving the needs of their government. There are some who believe government is the only creator of economic prosperity, but if others have achieved success, they must be, by default, the cause of other people's hardships. This type of class warfare demagoguery is harmful to our country and our country's future and our people's future, and it has the end result of dividing America. It creates envy, hatred, and resentment toward those who have worked hard, played by the rules, and achieved success. This divisive rhetoric seeks to put blame on the successful for the hardships of those who have been hurt during this recession.

Most Americans don't support President Obama's divisive vision and rhetoric. The American people still believe if you work hard and play by the rules, you can be successful and you can flourish. I doubt the majority of Americans believe it is the goal of government to intervene in this process. In fact, most Americans would be happy to have the government get out of the way. Most Americans believe in individual responsibility and liberty, including freedom to succeed and freedom to fail.

It appears President Obama's commitment to these fundamental free-

doms is less sure. Based on his recent speech in Kansas, it seems the Federal Government is the answer to all of America's problems. According to the President, if we tax the wealthy, ensure they pay their fair share, we can get our economy back on the right track. President Obama wants the American people to believe higher taxes on job creators will lead to economic prosperity and create jobs. This is contrary to what Republicans know to be true. It is also contrary to the vision President John F. Kennedy knew to be true when in the 1963 tax bill he reduced the marginal tax rates very dramatically. President John F. Kennedy recognized the economic benefits of lowering taxes, so in his State of the Union Address on January 14, 1963, President Kennedy spoke of the need to increase economic growth and job creation. He stated:

To achieve these greater gains, one step, above all, is essential—the enactment this year of a substantial reduction and revision in the Federal income taxes . . . A net reduction in tax liabilities . . . will increase the purchasing power of American families and business enterprise in every tax bracket.

He further stated:

It will, in addition, encourage the addition and risk-taking on which our free enterprise system depends—induce more investment, production, and capacity use . . . and reinforce the American principle of additional reward for additional effort.

It is worth repeating. President Kennedy pushed for lowering Federal income taxes to encourage initiative and risk-taking to induce investment, production, and economic growth. President Kennedy recognized and believed in the American principle of additional reward for additional effort.

It seems to me, from the speeches that have been made recently, that our President—meaning President Obama—disagrees. It seems to me that he argues innovators and job creators should be subjected to punitive tax increases for being successful. He seems to believe economic growth will come by confiscating the wealth of job creators and sending that money to Washington, and I could not disagree more.

For Americans to prosper, we must first reduce the size of government. This year the Federal Government will spend about 24 percent of our gross domestic product. This type of spending has led to annual deficits above \$1 trillion for the past 3 years. The total debt stands at over \$15 trillion. This is 100 percent of our gross domestic product. The size of government, the size of deficits, the size of debt, and the size of interest payments are unsustainable over the long haul. We must reverse course.

Second, we must work to reform the Tax Code to provide certainty and predictability. Nearly every day our President is on the campaign trail talking about tax increases. It is no wonder our job creators, particularly small businesses, are reluctant to make business decisions or investments in this climate, which decisions we would hope if they would make them would obvi-

ously lead to a great deal of job creation in the private sector. This country doesn't need more taxes, we need more taxpayers, and the way to get more taxpayers is to have more people working.

The President's threat of higher taxes is directly inhibiting job growth and economic expansion. It is time for President Obama to recognize that with 13 million Americans unemployed and anemic economic growth, tax increases will harm, not help, economic recovery.

Finally, we had a recent Gallup poll finding that compliance with government regulations is the single biggest issue facing small business owners today. You might think we would emphasize the Fortune 500 big corporations when it comes to creating jobs, but we know that 70 percent of the new jobs in America are created by small business, so we ought to be concentrating on what small business people are telling us about the economy not turning around.

Small business owners, when it comes from the standpoint of regulations, need to spend less time and money making sure they comply with burdensome and needless Washington regulations. Those valuable resources should be spent growing their business, hiring more workers, and as a result growing our economy. We must halt the Federal Government regulations binge. For many of these new regulations, the cost of compliance outweighs the public benefit. They are acting like a wet blanket on our economy. There should be a moratorium on new regulations.

I want to give you a perfect example that is now an issue before the Congress, the Keystone XL Pipeline. At a time of high unemployment and energy costs, the Federal Government should not be standing in the way of private investment that will create jobs and increase our energy supply. It is unconscionable that the largest private shovel-ready construction project is being delayed by President Obama's decision to override two different studies by the State Department and that there was no negative environmental impact. It seems the only jobs President Obama is interested in creating are government jobs or government-subsidized jobs. The unfounded delay should be ended and the pipeline project should move ahead.

This situation typifies the Obama philosophy that the free market and intelligent Americans are incapable of making informed decisions. The argument we hear is that Americans are not smart enough to know we need solar energy rather than fossil fuels. So our big government caretaker uses ½ billion in taxpayer dollars to support a solar company while simultaneously blocking an entirely private enterprise from developing an oil pipeline that will make us much more energy independent. We have seen how the decision by the government elite to support

Solyndra has worked out. It was a complete failure.

It is time we got out of the way of the Keystone Pipeline. I hope the American people will dismiss the economic theories and visions of our President as he seeks to divide our country. I believe we can achieve a prosperous future by empowering individuals rather than our Federal Government. Americans are smart enough to put their trust in themselves and their neighbors, not in bigger government. It is time to end the political blame game and divisive rhetoric and, instead, work on genuine and real policies that will create economic jobs and, more importantly, economic growth that is going to help all Americans; in other words, expanding the economy because this does not have to be a zero sum gain. We can have more for more people, and if we don't have more for more people, we are going to have less for more people and everybody is going to lose out.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, we are in the midst of an important debate over whether we will allow all working Americans to be hit with a big tax increase next year.

This is a critical measure of relief for our working families in these tough times. During the aftermath of the most severe recession since the Great Depression, many middle-class Americans cannot afford to lose the \$1,000 the average family receives from this tax cut. Furthermore, economists across the spectrum believe that extending the payroll tax cut is a critical step in building momentum toward a stronger recovery and minimizing the chances that our economy could slip back into recession.

While keeping working Americans from being hit with this tax increase is our first and most important priority, we must also look to what is best for our economy when deciding on offsets for the cost. The offset in the bill that we voted on 2 weeks ago made good sense: asking millionaires and billionaires to fund a fairer share of our national budget. I am concerned, however, about a new offset provision in S. 1944 that increases the guarantee fee on mortgages backed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. I am very wary of placing additional costs on new mortgages given the ongoing crisis in the housing and mortgage markets. Moreover, if there is such a fee increase, it should be used to strengthen our battered housing market.

I look forward to discussing other offsets with my colleagues as we continue this debate. This much is clear: Keeping this tax cut in place is a huge factor in the success of our working families and a huge factor in the recovery of our economy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

FEDERAL WORKERS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, it is time for Republicans to end their war on dedicated, hard-working middle-class Federal employees. Who are these Federal workers? They are the Veterans' Administration's nursing assistants who care for our wounded warriors; the Department of Defense civilian employees who support our military troops at home and abroad; Social Security Administration claims representatives who process benefits to our Nation's senior citizens and people who qualify for disability payments. They also include Nobel prize-winning scientists who are conducting groundbreaking research at the National Institutes of Health and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on everything from fighting cancer to understanding the origins of the universe; the Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration staff who keep our air and water clean and our food and drugs safe; the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic controllers who keep the skies safe; also, the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and United States Marshal Service attorneys and law enforcement officers who track down and arrest and convict terrorists and drug cartel and gang members.

The list of those who are on the front line of public service goes on and on. Federal employees are dedicated and hard-working, and like many other Americans, many of them are struggling to deal with their family budgets. And yet Federal employees are already contributing \$60 billion to the deficit reduction through a 2-year pay freeze.

They have already contributed to deficit reduction. They were the first in line to try to help balance our budget.

Like their private sector counterparts, Federal employees haven't been immune to the country's economic woes. They are confronting similar hardships: disabled or unemployed spouses, declining home values, rising gasoline and living expenses. Many Federal employees head single-parent families. As do other Americans, many Federal employees struggle to pay their mortgages and find ways to send their children to college.

H.R. 3630, the House Republicans' payroll tax cut bill, would require 2 million Federal employees to shoulder nearly one-half of the cost of a tax reduction that benefits 160 million Americans. So what the Republican bill is doing is extending the payroll tax reductions for working families, but saying to the middle-class Federal worker: You are going to pay most of the burden. That is not going to help our economy. That is not the right way to extend the payroll tax reduction.

The current Republican assault on our Federal employees is piled on top of the current 2-year pay freeze, which is piled on top of a workforce already lagging behind the private sector when

it comes to pay. According to the non-partisan Congressional Research Service, average wages among all workers in our economy have risen over 600 percent since 1969, while salaries for civilian Federal employees have grown by a little over 400 percent since 1969. There is a widening gap between public sector employees and the private sector.

What these proposals would do is widen that gap even further.

Republicans want to extend the current pay freeze for another year. That would cost a Federal employee who makes \$50,000 annually about \$800 a year. A 3-year pay freeze would cost GS-5 employees almost \$4,000 in cumulative lost salaries; for GS-7 employees, almost \$5,000 in cumulative lost salaries; and for GS-9 employees, almost \$6,000 in cumulative lost salaries.

The Republican bill would require massive increases in the contributions current and future Federal employees make to their retirement system—a system that is currently fully funded—while slashing benefits. That is rubbing salt in the wound of the additional pay freeze. So the Republican bill takes a 2-year pay freeze and adds a third year pay freeze and tells our employees to triple their contributions to their retirement system, which is another pay cut. It is not only a freeze, Republicans are proposing. It's a pay cut for our Federal workers.

In addition to these assaults, we are already asking the federal workforce to do more with less. As my colleagues have noticed, when it comes to job growth numbers, the public sector numbers aren't going up; they're going down. But the workload isn't going down. We are asking our Federal workers to do more with less, to have a 2-year pay freeze, and now to take a pay cut. That is not fair.

The Republicans save their most severe punishment for future Federal employees, making it clear that their intention is to provide as many disincentives for people to consider a career in public service as possible. Increasing pension contributions for future hires by 3.2 percent would force an employee making \$30,000 a year to pay \$1,200 rather than \$400. We should be embracing people who are willing to engage in public service. The Republicans are doing just the opposite.

It is time for the Republicans to stop their war on hard-working Federal employees. Increasingly, the Federal workforce is being asked to do more with less. Increasingly, the Federal workforce is being asked to shoulder a disproportionate share of deficit reduction. It is time to stop that assault. I think it is time we all properly recognize the dedication, hard work, valor, sacrifice, and professionalism of our Federal workers.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

I withdraw my request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.